

## **Rev William Brown Rector of Saxmundham, Suffolk from 1798 to Dec 1826**

Information compiled by Rob Potter from a variety of sources; most hopefully acknowledged.

### **Summary of what we know...**

Rev William died on or around Nov 21st 1826, allegedly as a result of a fall from his horse suffered on Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. His DoB was believed to be 10 Nov 1755. He was rector at St John the Baptist, Saxmundham Suffolk from 1798 to Dec 1826.

William's tomb is at the East end of the graveyard at St John the Baptist church, Saxmundham. The inscription reads:

Sacred to the memory of Henry William Brown A.B.  
Rector of the parish perpetual Curate of Farnham and Rector of Glemham Parva  
Zealous in the discharge of his Ministerial duties.  
Endeared to his relations and friends.  
Deservedly regretted by his Parishioners.  
He departed this life Nov 21<sup>st</sup> 1826 Aged 73

The tomb was mis-recorded in the St John's graveyard register as that of Joseph Packhard of Sternfield Hall (Died March 14 1825) who was also buried in that tomb and who was William's nephew. The tomb has unfortunately fallen into disrepair – pictures below on page 2. He is also recorded as rector at Gt Glemham, and curate at Little Glemham and Farnham – villages local to Saxmundham.

William was married to Judith who died 12 Jan 1828 in Foxhall near Ipswich (described as Foxhall Mayo) – it is part of the Ecclesiastical parish of Brightwell and has no church of its own. We have checked the graveyard at Brightwell and can find no headstone to Judith. Brian Boulton, churchwarden at Snape provided me with the information regarding Judith's baptism and burial attached on page 3 below.

William had a son also William Brown who was baptised at Brightwell church in 1812 (to be confirmed). William Jnr was thus only 15 when William Snr died – William Jnr is the ancestor referred to by Mr Boyce who is believed to have emigrated to the USA in the early 1840's with Anne Taylor from Ireland. As yet I have no information relating to William Jnr and Anne.

I haven't established the connection between William, Judith and Brightwell. Why wasn't Judith buried in William's substantial tomb at Saxmundham? Why was Wm Jnr baptised at Brightwell rather than Saxmundham?

Two 'red herrings' threw me off track in researching William:

There was another Rev William Brown at Marlesford around that time who then took over Little Glemham and Gt Glemham after our William's death! See Morning Herald page 12 below.

William was succeeded at Saxmundham by Rev Launcelot R Brown who was also rector at Kelsale and Thorrington. I have yet to establish any relationship between William and Launcelot - it seems possible but I have found no link after talking with an expert on Capability from Cambridge Family History Soc. . Launcelot was grandson of the famous Launcelot 'Capability' Brown who designed landscapes for many great houses in England in the early 1700's. Launcelot had Kelsale Court built during his time as rector – this was a substantial building. He inherited Capability's estate.

After William died on Nov 21<sup>st</sup> the collection of books and manuscripts was sold off at Saxmundham on Jan 26<sup>th</sup> 1827 – over 400 lots. See the Ipswich Journal advertisement of the sale on Page 12 below. The sale was over 2-3 days with household items including 90 dozen bottles of Port wine and a Pipe of Port (which is a barrel of 105 imperial gallons!). It's not certain that all these items were part of William's estate but seems likely.

Mr Sotherby then undertook the sale of the coinage and other 'treasure' on June 11 1827 at his house in The Strand – 347 lots sold over 3 days. The sale then continued with items from other sources. I have a copy of the sale catalogue annotated with the auction prices – see the link on page 15. The total at today's value looked around £3-400k (multiply by 100 to get from 1827 to 2022).

A notice published in the Ipswich Journal Jan 6 1827 (see page 13) named John Flatt of Saxmundham and John Packard of Hasketon as authorised by the Administratrix to receive and discharge debts.

### **The tomb of William Brown at St John the Baptist church, Saxmundham**





Will





## Judith Brown, William's wife

Judith Howes	
England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975	
Name:	Judith Howes
Gender:	Female
Christening Date:	10 Mar 1779
Christening Date (Original):	10 MAR 1779
Christening Place:	Dennington, Suffolk, England
Father's Name:	Joseph Howes
Mother's Name:	Jemima

**Judith Brown in 1828**  
 National Burial Index For England & Wales  
 Brightwell, Suffolk, England

[Add to tree](#) [Print](#)

 Transcript of Judith's record

 Copy to clipboard

First name(s)	Judith	Church	St John the Baptist
Last name	Brown	Denomination	Anglican
Birth year	1779	County	Suffolk
Age	49	Country	England
Death year	1828	Record set	National Burial Index For England & Wales
Burial year	1828	Category	Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records
Burial date	12 Jan 1828	Subcategory	Parish Burials
Place	Brightwell	Collections from	Great Britain, England

Felixstowe Family History Society  
Transcriptions © Felixstowe Family History Society



The following information from Michael Boyce in the USA started off the search for William and his treasure....

'Hello, my name is Michael Boyce. I live in Upstate New York, in the States, and I am writing in hopes that someone at your church might be able to assist me with solving a nearly two hundred year-old family mystery that may or may not center around your parish.

As children in the 1970's, our Grandmother, Christine Towne, told us all the same story of her mother's family- that they - the Brown Family- were from England, and that her Grandfather's father- **William Brown**- had been a minister (also heard in stories as a "Bishop"), who fell in love with a "servant", and was forced to abscond to New York in scandal, of some sort, involving this girl. The details here remain quite spotty.

My Grandmother passed away almost 20 years ago, and just before she died, I began to start to pull at these threads, and see what I could find out from the historical record. The facts were lean, and what little I managed to discover, mostly through American Census records, was that my ancestor, **William Brown**, was born in 1812. State death records show he passed in NY in 1890. His wife, **Anne Taylor Brown**, was born in 1833, and died in 1882/3. He was born in England. She, in Ireland. Their first child is born when she is around 15, around 1848/9, here in the States, bolstering my Grandmother's detail that she was much younger than he. They had 14 children, 12 of who survived to adulthood- with thousands of descendants across the world today- and that has been pretty much ALL I've managed to find on them, until a recent online search on [familyhistory.org](http://familyhistory.org), which revealed the following intriguing, and new (to me, anyway) information on William, and perhaps your church (?) '

#### **William Brown Christening • 14 JUN 1812 Brightwell And Foxhall,Suffolk,England**

This William Brown is attached to my family, but I have no way to support this. I know how spotty this online information can be, and I started delving deeper last week, and found this, from a book on the history of Suffolk:

##### *Felixstow*

##### *Fylchestowe or Fylstow*

*The shore here is hold and steep, being composed of a hard sand, intermixed with shingle, and perfectly free from ooze; and the marine view delightful. During the late war several martello towers were erected here, for the protection of the coast, which have since been removed, and the materials disposed of.*

*On the cliff, about three miles from Landguard Fort, is situated Felixstow Cottage, the residence of Sir Samuel Fludger, Bart. It was formerly a mere fisherman's hut, and was purchased by the eccentric Philip Thicknesse, Esq., then Lieutenant Governor of the Fort, for £55; whose taste, aided by the embellishments of his wife's pencil, soon converted it into a charming occasional retreat; and here they resided during the summer months.*

*On relinquishing his Lieutenant Governorship, he disposed of this cottage to the dowager Lady Bateman, for £400: about half the money which he had expended upon it. The grandmother of the present possessor (Sir Samuel Fludger, Bart.), purchased it for £2000.<sup>1</sup>*

*From the great number of Roman remains, such as urns, rings, coins, &c., that have been discovered here, it must have been a place of considerable importance during the time this country was under the Roman yoke. In 1748-5, the Rev. \_\_\_\_\_ Myers, then vicar of Walton, formed a considerable collection of nearly 4000, in gold, silver, and brass; among them was a splendid brass medallion of Anthony and Cleopatra; Maximinian, with the reverse "Jori Conservatori," and Licinius, "Ubique Victoris," in gold; Denarii of Pescennius Niger, Pertinax, and Albinus; and in large and middle brass, from Augustus to the Constantines. At his death, his valuable cabinets of coins and antiques were*

*left by will, to the **Rev William Brown**, of Saxmundham; after whose decease they were sold, by Mr. Sotheby, of London, by auction, in 1827.*

It's hard to tell, with only online search methods, to determine if this is even your church, but geographically, it sure seems close..

While I assure you I am staking no claim in that 200-years-gone treasure, I would simply love to know if this William Brown, baptized there, according to the familysearch site, is my Great-great-great Grandfather. And if so, was he the son of the Rev. William Brown in this Suffolk history? I believe it would be as simple as determining If there were some record THERE of the death of 1812-born William Brown- in which case he certainly would not be "mine"- and following this logic, if he is "mine", could my Anne Taylor be located there, working as a servant? Is there a germ of truth in this 150 year old family yarn?

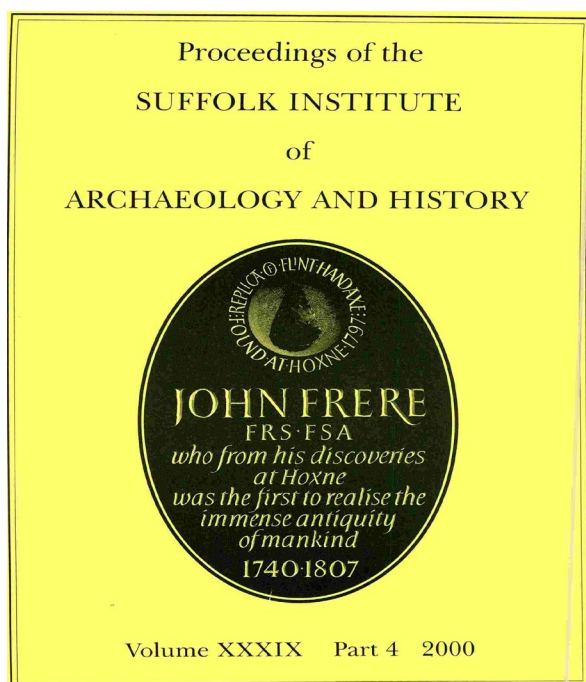
Thank you so much for reading all this, and for any assistance you may be able to provide me. Please feel free to pass this along to anyone there that might know. I hope the New Year finds you all safe and well.

Sincerely,  
Michael Boyce

According to Roy Tricker (Suffolk church historian), William began his Ministry as Chaplain to Languard Fort, Felixstowe.

Rev William Myers who was Rector at Felixstowe was, we understand, married to William's Aunt ( Sister of Williams father John who is buried at Hasketon (died 1785). Rev Myers died around 1779 and in his will left his considerable collection of books, manuscripts and coinage (many of Roman gold) to William with the caveat that they were to be kept in the family.

**Extract from booklet on the history of treasures and other history related to parts of Suffolk** – referred to by Florent Heintz of Sotherby's



Below is the extract relating to Revs Myers and William Brown

## Roman Walton and Felixstowe

The evidence for Roman Felixstowe and Walton is extensive, but, owing to the rapid building expansion of the town since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the uneven record of random discoveries, it has always been difficult to marshal into a coherent picture. Early records relate to coin discoveries: the Revd William Myers, vicar of Walton-cum-Felixstowe c. 1727-65, collected 420 Roman coins (apparently not a hoard) in the years 1742-44 from Walton Castle and its neighbourhood. They ranged from Pompey the Great (66B.C) to Honorius (A.D.417), and included twenty-three of the 1<sup>st</sup> century, fifty-five of the 2nd, ninety-nine of the 3rd and 240 of the 4th." These are presumably the same coins referred to by Canning (1764,90), who added, 'It is certain that the castle had the privilege of coining money, for several dies have been found for that purpose.' Myers, as Deputy Chaplain to Landguard Fort, fell foul of the Lieutenant Governor, Philip Thicknesse, during the early 1750s. In 1753 Thicknesse bought a fisherman's cottage at the location later known as Cobbold's Point," and extended it to form a summer residence.

Ref 34:

The collection inherited by Myers's nephew, the Revd William Brown (afterwards of Saxmundham), was after his death auctioned at Saxmundham on 26 Jan. 1827 and dispersed. Myers's large numismatic library included several MS works of his own. The Catalogue (Myers MS 1744) passed to the topographer Layton (vide Blatchly 1988, 37), was transcribed by D.E. Davy (Davy MS, lf. 53-60), and latterly given by V.B. Redstone to S.D. Wall (Wall 1938a). Presumably Layton was related to (?son of) Revd Andrew Layton, Rector of St Matthew's, Ipswich, who as Deputy Chaplain of Landguard Fort might be the 'Dr Wooden Hat' lampooned.

**Hasketon Church** – Tombs of John Brown (left) and Mary (sister?) (right). White dust is flour used to highlight lettering. John was William's father and brother-in-law to Rev Myers who left the 'treasure' to William.



**Inscription on Mary Brown's grave at Hasketon, Suffolk**

Mary Brown Spinster  
Died Nov 13 1820  
Aged 69 Years  
She gave by Will the interest on a hundred pounds stock  
----- poor of the parish ---

**Inscription on John Brown's grave at Hasketon, Suffolk**

In memory of  
John Brown who  
Departed of (t)his life  
Jan 20 1785  
Also Mary Brown  
His wife  
Who departed of this life  
--- 91 years---

*query 91 – difficult to read*



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**Inscription on John Brown's Tomb – includes Mary his wife**



**Inscription on Mary Brown's Tomb (John's sister?)**





## The intrepid Tomb raiders at Hasketon.

Elsa McKenzie Churchwarden with dog Millie, Pam and Phil Peeling our friends who know a lot about churches. Sue (Rob's wife) and Elsa's husband. Then 2 more views of Hasketon church.





**Davy, David Elisha**

**A journal of excursions through the county of Suffolk 1823-1844. - (Suffolk Records Society; v.24) 1. Suffolk (England) - Description and travel I. Title II. Blatchly, John III. Series 914.26'40474 DA670.S9 ISBN 0-85115-162-0**

1825 Thurs. March 31

Being on my way from Yoxford to Ufford, I stopped at Saxmundham, to examine an Inscription 114 lately discovered on the outside of the S. wall of the Nave, at the W. end. It is imperfect, but what remains is very legible, & probably commemorates the building or repair of that part of the church. I took the opportunity of completing my church notes both within & without, & was after shewn by Mr. Brown, 115 the Rector, some deeds relating to the Parish Land, which I had not an opportunity of abstracting or copying. They seemed to relate to some lands chargeable with certain sums of money laid out in bread: the oldest dated 1657. Mr. Brown also shewed me some papers, apparently of little value, belonging to Great Glemham, chiefly relating to a dispute about the tithes.

115 Lancelot R. Brown, R. of Saxmundham (incumbent also of Thorington and Carlton cum Kelsale). His patron (and the poet Crabbe's) was Dudley Long North Esq., of Little Glemham. (See Note 552.)

**From:** C FARROW <[charlesfarrowresearch@btinternet.com](mailto:charlesfarrowresearch@btinternet.com)>

**Sent:** 14 February 2021 09:23

**To:** [robpotter99@gmail.com](mailto:robpotter99@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Re: FW: rector William Brown

Dear Rob,

Thanks for your email. Can't tell you a lot, but I can say that having read all the correspondence, it is a mistaken idea that there is any Fludgers connection. It was Rev William Myers, rector of Walton who made the collection of coins, and by his will proved in 1779 in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury by his brother in law, John Brown of Hasketon, he left that collection to his nephew William Brown, requesting him never to sell them but to pass them on in the family.

I can find no will for Rev William Brown in either PCC or Norwich Consistory Court indexes (the two courts where it could have been proved). As he died from an accident I suspect that he died intestate. The PCC administrations are not indexed online, so cannot check, and when I went onto the NRO online catalogue I find they have done away with the quick probate search, so have been unable to see if there is an administration in NCC

## Judith Howes

Born **about 1779** in **Dennington, Suffolk, England** 📍

Daughter of [Joseph Howes](#) and [Jemima \(Unknown\) Howes](#)

[sibling(s) unknown]

Wife of **William Brown** — married [date unknown] [location unknown]

## DESCENDANTS 📜

Mother of [William Brown](#)

Died **12 Jan 1828** in **Foxhall, Mayo, England** 📍

Suffolk Chronicle Sat Nov 25 1826

On Tuesday last, suddenly, much respected, while in the act of dressing himself, Mr. John Banyard, of Woodbridge, in the 61st year of his age. He had previously complained of not feeling quite well, and said he should be better if he got up, but the awful visitation took place before he had finished dressing, to the great grief of his family and friends.

On Tuesday last (being his birth day) at the Glebe House, Saxmundham, in consequence of a fall from his horse on the 11th inst., aged 72, the Rev. William Brown, Rector of that parish, most highly and deservedly esteemed by his relations, his friends, and his numerous parishioners. This respectable divine received his academical education at Trinity college, Cambridge, where he proceeded to the degree of A.B., in 1777. In 1783, he was licenced to the perpetual curacy of Farnham, on the nomination of Chas. Long, Esq., of Hurts-hall. In 1783, he was presented by the same patron to the Rectory of Saxmundham; in 1798, to that of Little Glemham, on the presentation of Dunley Long North, Esq., of Glemham-hall; and in 1804, he was licenced to the perpetual curacy of Great Glemham, on the same nomination.

On Wednesday last, at Walton, Mr. Richard Bay-



The Rev. Lancelot R. Brown, M.A. was last week instituted to the rectory of Saxmundham, Suffolk, on the presentation of Dudley Long North, Esq. of Little Glemham Hall.

The Rev. William Browne, B.A. rector of Marlesford, and chaplain to the Earl of Rochford, was last week instituted to the rectory of Little Glemham, with the perpetual curacy of Great Glemham annexed, Suffolk, on the presentation of Dudley Long North, Esq.

St. David's College, which was founded in 1822, by the pre-

Ipswich Journal 13 Jan 1827

**HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,  
PLATE,  
FINE OLD WINES,  
LIBRARY OF BOOKS, &c.  
AT SAXMUNDHAM.**

To be SOLD by AUCTION,  
By Mr. CANA,  
On Tuesday, the 23d Instant (January),

**G**LASS, CHINA, TABLE SERVICE,  
QUEEN'S and EARTHENWARE,  
BEST PARLOUR, PASSAGES, and BEST  
CHAMBERS, FURNITURE, &c.; also an  
antique Cabinet, containing curiosities in Agates,  
Opals, Onyx, Pearl, Intaglio's, &c.; about 150  
Ounces of Plate, in Tea and Table Spoons, antique  
Sugar Tongs, Tea and Cream Pots, Salts, Quart  
Mugs, &c.

On WEDNESDAY the 24th,  
Keeping-room, Study, Kitchen, Wash-house,  
Scullery, and Chamber Furniture, single-horse  
Chaise, stone roll, garden utensils, &c.

On THURSDAY the 25th,  
DAIRY UTENSILS, BEER CASKS, attics  
and servants' bedding, about 3 gross of glass  
bottles, quantity of dross wheat, peas, barley, and  
ditto faggot-wood, billet ditto, blocks, &c.

On FRIDAY the 26th,  
The LIBRARY, comprising nearly 1,000 Vol-  
umes on Coins, Medals, Divinity, and Miscella-  
neous Literature.

On SATURDAY, the 27th,  
90 Dozen of fine-flavoured Old Port, a Pipe of  
ditto in the wood, vintage 1821, and about 22  
Dozen of Madeira, Malmsey Madeira, Sherry,  
Bucellas, Lisbon, Hermitage, and Claret.

Catalogues may be had at the Auction Mart,  
London; of Deck, and Raw, Ipswich; Swinborne  
and Co.; Colchester; Alexander, Yarmouth; Mr.  
Gall, Bury; at the Place of Sale, and the Auction-  
eer's, Woodbridge.

**Extraordinary Facility, Elegance,  
And Utility.**

THE Ladies and Gentlemen of Ipswich and its

### NOTICE.

All persons having claims or demands upon the Estate of the late Rev. WILLIAM BROWN, of Saxmundham, deceased, are requested to send in an account thereof to Mr. John Flatt, of Saxmundham aforesaid, or to Mr. John Packard, of Hasketon, who will discharge the same forthwith; and such persons who stand indebted to the said deceased, are desired to pay the amount of their respective debts within Two Months from this date, to the said John Flatt and John Packard, who are authorised by the Administratrix to receive and give discharges for the same.

*Woodbridge, Jan. 5, 1827. (One concern.)*

**BOOKS ON COINS,  
THEOLOGY, &c.  
AT SAXMUNDHAM, SUFFOLK.**

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A  
**CATALOGUE**  
OF A  
**VALUABLE COLLECTION**  
OF NEARLY  
**1000 VOLUMES,**

ON  
**COINS, MEDALS, DIVINITY,**

AND  
**Miscellaneous Literature,**

THE PROPERTY OF THE LATE  
**REV. WILLIAM BROWNE;**

WHICH WILL BE  
**SOLD BY AUCTION,**

BY  
***MR. CANA,***

---

UPON THE PREMISES,  
**THE PARSONAGE HOUSE,  
SAXMUNDHAM, SUFFOLK,**

**ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 1827,**

**At Eleven o'clock.**

**J. LODGE, PRINTER AND BOOKSELLER, WOODBRIDGE.**

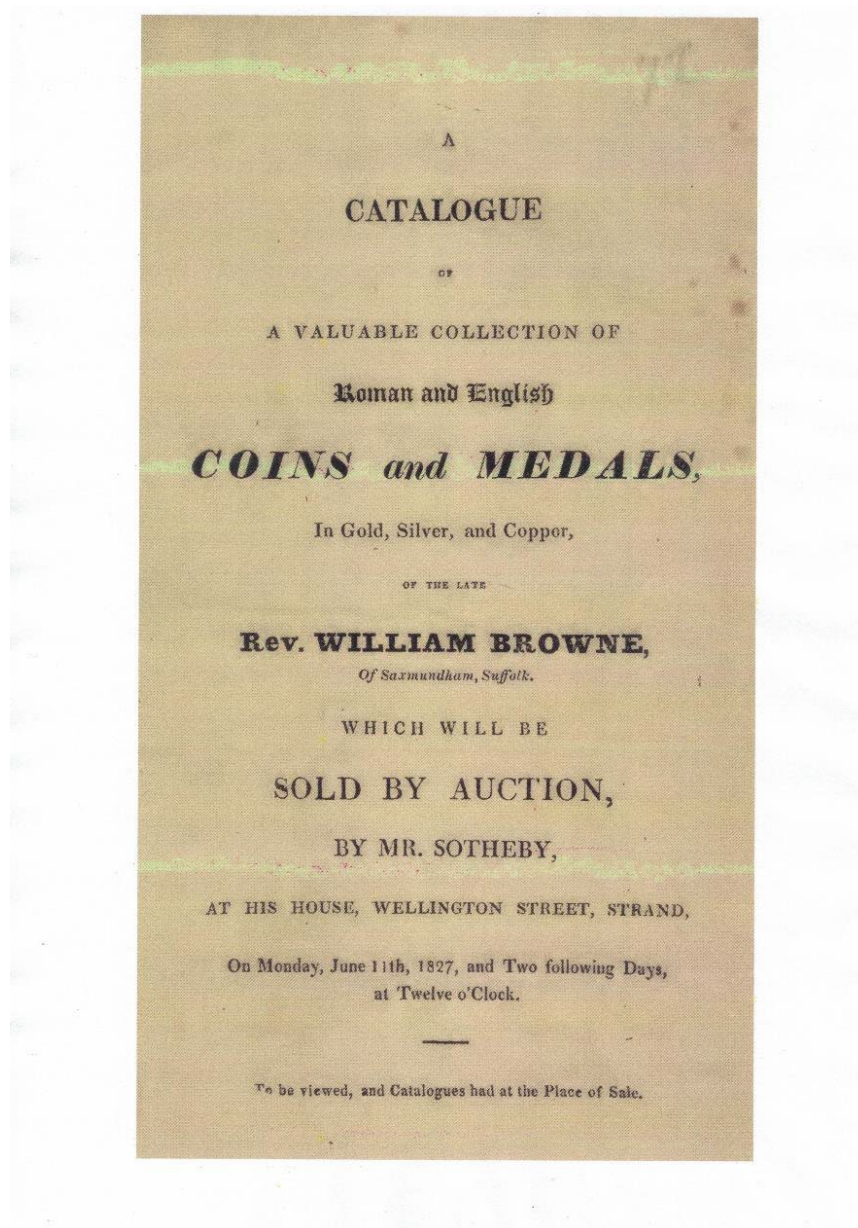
See below for the catalogue.



[https://books.google.co.uk/books/about/Books\\_on\\_Coins\\_Theology\\_c\\_at\\_Saxmundham.html?id=Pu2DOMAQfQcC&redir\\_esc=y](https://books.google.co.uk/books/about/Books_on_Coins_Theology_c_at_Saxmundham.html?id=Pu2DOMAQfQcC&redir_esc=y)

Link to Sotherby's sale catalogue June 1827 – seems to be annotated with lot sale prices (pounds, shillings and pence).

<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/auctionlots?AucCold=511728&AuctionId=523416>



the honorable distinction of King's Counsel.

Mr. Sotheby's auction on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday last, of the Cabinet of Coins, the property of the late Rev. Wm. Brown, of Saxmundham, was thinly attended, and the sale languid, except in the instance of a few lots in the 2d and 3d days, for which the biddings were warm and spirited between Messrs. Young, Cruick, Bruell, Till, &c. ; a Sovereign of Henry VIII fetched 5£. 12s. 6d. ; a 20s. 10s. and a 5s. Commonwealth, 6£. 12s. 6d. ; a Gold Medal Oliver on his death, 6£. 6s. ; one Sovereign Henry VII, 25£. ; another, 17 guineas ; one Henry VIII, 3£. 4s. ; another, 5£. 12s. 6d. ; 3 guinea piece, Charles II, 4£. 6s. ; *Oliver's Ninety*, 19£. ; Mary's Sovereign, 1553, 6£. 2s. 6d. ; James 1st ditto m. m. 6£. 8s. 6d. ; James 1st Noble m. m. fine 10£.

Our Musical Festival has strongly excited the